

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

AMEREN TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF ILLINOIS	)	
	)	
Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and	)	
Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406.1 of the Illinois	)	
Public Utilities Act, and an Order pursuant to Section 8-	)	Docket No. 12-0598
503 of the Public Utilities Act, to Construct, Operate and	)	
Maintain a New High Voltage Electric Service Line and	)	
Related Facilities in the Counties of Adams, Brown,	)	
Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, Edgar, Fulton,	)	
Macon, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Pike,	)	
Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott and Shelby, Illinois.	)	

**TESTIMONY OF BRUCE DAILY ON BEHALF OF COLES AND MOULTRIE  
COUNTY LAND INTERESTS**

**Direct Testimony Of Bruce Daily**

**On Behalf Of**

**Coles and Moultrie County Land Interests**

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3 **I. INTROCUCTION**

4 **Q. Please state your name and address.**

5 **A.** Bruce Daily. My address is 1430 East County Road, 750 North, Mattoon, Illinois, 61938.

6 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

7 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying in this proceeding?**

8 **A.** I am testifying on behalf of the Coles and Moultrie County Land Interests which includes  
9 myself, Rita Getz, Grace Mae Daily, Rebecca Barrow, Alice Deininger, Stephen Daily,  
10 Daily Grain Farms, Ltd., and the Elgin and Genevieve Daily Scholarship Farm.

11 **III. THE EFFECT OF THE PRIMARY ROUTE ON FARMING OPERATIONS**

12 **Q. Can you explain what the Coles and Moultrie County Land Interests consist of?**

13 **A.** It is a farming operation that encompasses not only land that I own, but also land from  
14 other landladies who rent their tracts of land to me for farming.

15 **Q. Please identify each parcel of land by parcel number that you claim will be affected**  
16 **by the proposed electrical transmission line and related facilities that are subject**  
17 **ATXI's petition currently before the Illinois Commerce Commission.**

18 **A.** For Rita Getz: PIN: 09-0-01048-000, 09-0-01134-000, 09-0-01156-001; Grace Mae  
19 Daily: PIN: 09-0-01135-000,09-0-01133-000; Rebecca Barrow: PIN: 09-0-01015-000,  
20 09-0-0108-000, 09-0-01094-001; Stephen B. Daily: PIN: 09-09-36-000-201; Daily Grain

21 Farms, Ltd.: PIN: 09-09-25-000-404, 09-09-25-000-403; Daily Elgin & Genevieve  
22 Scholarship Trust: PIN: 09-0—1132-000, 09-0-01128-000, and 09-0-01131-000.

23 **Q. How is the property currently used?**

24 **A.** Agriculture: corn and soybeans.

25 **Q. What is the classification of the property you farm?**

26 **A.** It is known as prime farmland. Prime farmland is a designation assigned by U.S.  
27 Department of Agriculture defining land that has the best combination of physical and  
28 chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. Prime  
29 farm land has the best capability and productivity.

30 **Q. Is there any revenue from that is earned from the property?**

31 **A.** Yes. Revenue is earned from the farming operations.

32 **Q. What is the name of your farming operations?**

33 **A.** Daily Grain Farms, Ltd. The corporation is the operating entity and owns land on ATXI's  
34 Primary Route.

35 **Q. How long have you been a farmer?**

36 **A.** I have been farming all my life. The parcels of land that I own myself, I've owned for  
37 approximately 20 to 25 years.

38 **Q. Do you oppose the Primary Route?**

39 **A.** Yes.

40 **Q. How much of your land is affected by the Primary Route?**

41 **A.** 140 acres is affected by the primary line. I own land on both sides of the Primary Route.

42 **Q. How else does the Primary Route affect your farming operations?**

43    **A.**     The tracts of land that I rent and farm from the other property owners has land on both  
44           sides of the Primary Route. This land has been in their families for approximately 80 to  
45           100 years.

46    **Q.**     **Can you tell us how ATXI's power lines will affect your farming operations?**

47    **A.**     It is my understanding that ATXI is going to place poles the length of the Primary Route  
48           that are approximately 808 to 1,000 feet apart. If the Primary Route proceeds through my  
49           land, the poles will have to be placed in the middle of the fields. This makes it more  
50           inconvenient to farm around the poles. The construction and installation of the poles  
51           would damage the farmland and soil from the compaction, especially if they are installed  
52           at a time when the soil was wet. Based on my experience, when heavy equipment is  
53           driven over the soil, there is a loss of yield in the area where the construction occurred.  
54           The heavy equipment affects the ability of plant roots to penetrate the soil to reach water  
55           and nutrients which in turn results in a lesser yield. It will take many years to recover  
56           from this damage. In addition, there are field tiles/drainage tiles in the vicinity of the  
57           proposed Primary Route. The construction might damage or destroy the drainage tiles  
58           which, in turn, would cause ponding or standing water.

59    **Q.**     **How else will the poles affect your farming?**

60    **A.**     Because the poles are set in the field, they don't match up with the width of the  
61           equipment, which would necessitate the need to farm around the poles. In addition, weed  
62           control needs to be performed around the poles. Each pole will have to be attended to  
63           nine months out of the year in order to keep the weeds under control and prevent  
64           spreading into the surrounding crops. The presence of weeds reduces yield because the  
65           weeds will consumer water and nutrients which otherwise would be consumed by the

66 crops. There is also possible damage to farm equipment. We want to farm as close to the  
67 poles as possible, but it is inevitable that ultimately someone is going to hit a pole and  
68 damage the equipment. This, in turn, would cause monetary damage in having to repair  
69 the equipment, as well as suffering down time from not being in the field and operating.  
70 In addition, the power lines would restrict my ability to use aerial applications of  
71 pesticides on my crops. This is an integral part of my farming operations and would  
72 force me to use other methods of applying pesticides.

73 **Q. Do you use GPS Navigation in your farming equipment?**

74 **A.** Yes.

75 **Q. Will the power lines affect the GPS equipment in your farming equipment?**

76 **A.** I do not know for certain. I would hope that the filters would be adequate. However, in  
77 my opinion, because of the amount of voltage emanating from the power lines, you  
78 would think some interference would result. I've invested a lot of money in this GPS  
79 navigation equipment and any negative impact from the powers lines will damage my  
80 farming operations and my investment in the GPS equipment.

81 **Q. What, if any, will the power lines do to the value of your property?**

82 **A.** In my opinion, the value of the property will be diminished in the long run due to the  
83 factors that I previously testified about. The poles will make the property less  
84 marketable, less valuable and have a permanent negative impact on the value of the  
85 property.

86 **VI. CONCLUSION**

87 **Q. What are your conclusions regarding the location of the Primary Route?**

88     A.     The location of the Primary Route would have a direct, negative effect on my farming  
89           operations which is my livelihood.

90     **Q.     Does this complete your testimony?**

91     **A.     Yes.**